

MEDIA RELEASE

Ethical Clothing Australia
ethicalclothingaustralia.org.au

Purchase ethically to protect worker rights and prevent exploitation this festive season

As we head into the festive season, local accreditation body Ethical Clothing Australia is reminding shoppers to purchase ethically when selecting gifts for their loved ones this year.

December is traditionally one of the busiest months for retail spending, with Australians ringing up more than \$37 billion at the till last December¹.

Ethical Clothing Australia's National Manager, Rachel Reilly, says it is important to remember that the decisions we make at the cash register impact the lives of some of the most vulnerable workers in our society.

"Australia has some of the strongest workplace laws in the world, however, not every worker is protected, and many textile, clothing and footwear workers face exploitation and unreasonable working conditions," she says.

"This is often the case because of the hidden nature of the work they do, as well as many coming from migrant backgrounds, where English is an additional language and proficiency can be low.

"The good news is that we have created a gift guide which removes the guesswork and helps you to find gifts that show your family and friends how much you love them whilst also backing local garment workers and businesses that ensure they're paid correctly, receiving all their legal entitlements, and working in safe conditions."

The guide features a wide range of businesses that have been accredited by Ethical Clothing Australia. This means that the business and its supply chains are adhering to local workplace laws.

It includes products for even the hardest person to buy for, including footwear, hanging baskets for plants, hats, timeless denim and comfy socks, as well as outfits for your pets and the little people in your life.

Reilly says that many people are aware that international online marketplaces like Shein, Temu, and Amazon are not always doing the right thing by workers, but don't have the same assumptions about products made in Australia.

"Unfortunately, being made in Australia is not enough to guarantee that workers aren't being underpaid, working unreasonable hours or working in unsafe conditions," she says.

¹ <https://www.abs.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/retail-spending-steady-december>

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“Through our accreditation program, we audit the entire local supply chain from design to dispatch, ensuring that workers are being paid correctly, receiving the right entitlements and are working in a safe environment.”

ENDS

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